

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr KYRKOS

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure
on the reconstruction of the Ionian Academy

The European Parliament,

- Having regard to the desire of the peoples of Europe to preserve and revive their popular traditions, which are a source of national and historical continuity,
- Having regard to the fervent desire of the people of Corfu and of all the Heptanese to reconstruct the Ionian Academy of the first university establishment of Modern Greece, which was founded in Corfu by French progressives and consolidated by the British,
- Whereas the Ionian Academy building, together with the library, was destroyed by Hitler's air force during the Second World War,
- Whereas the Ionian Academy, in which the most important Greek scholars and scientists of the last century taught, was closed so that its staff could work in the University of Athens,
- Whereas the closure of the Ionian Academy has had adverse effects on the economic development of Corfu and brought about the intellectual decline of a once flourishing population,
- Having regard to the continual migration of the population from Corfu, which has reached a peak in the last 30 years,
- Whereas the economic recovery noted recently is solely due to the development of tourism,
- Whereas Corfu is being developed into an international tourist centre and there are fears that it may lose its identity and character,
- Having regard to the problems created by the one-sided development of a region's economy,
- Stressing the need for the balanced development of the service sector in the island to avoid an economic collapse in the future should tourism dwindle,

Calls on:

1. the Greek Government to take immediate action to reconstruct the Ionian Academy;
2. the Commission of the European Communities to make an immediate contribution, through grants from the Regional Fund, to the cost of reconstructing the Ionian Academy building and of providing student accommodation;
3. the Presidents of the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council of Ministers to attend the ceremony to mark the beginning of work on the reconstruction of the Ionian Academy as a sign of the importance the Community attaches to its cultural heritage and to the intellectual and economic development of the regions of Europe;
4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Greek Government, to the Association of Municipalities and Communes of Corfu and to the Commission and Council of the European Communities.